KOTADIA): (a) and (b) Amendment of the National Highways Act, 1956 to enable the Government of India to charge fees for the use of selected stretches of National Highways with a view to augment budgetary resources for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country is under consideration.

(c) There has been no reaction from the State Governments.

(d) It is too early to indicate the basis of charging fees from the users of National Highways. Fees is to be ploughed back for development and maintenance of National Highways spread all over the country.

(e) The proposal to amend the National Highways Act is under process in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice.

Outlay for new National Highways during Eighth Five Year Plan

357. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV:
SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total outlay in eighth five year plan period for creating new National Highways in different parts of the country;

(b) what would be the share of Maharashtra in that plan;

(c) the number of proposals forwarded by Maharashtra Government for converting State highways into National Highways, especially in Marathwada region; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The outlays for the Central Sector Road Development Programmes including new National Highways in the 8th Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of Maharashtra has been projecting inclusion of eleven roads in the National Highways grid, which *inter alia* include three proposals criss-crossing the Marathwada region. However, it is not possible to take a general decision on declaration of new National Highways till the 8th Five Year Plan is finalised.

Refuelling at U.S. aircraft at Indian airports

358. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had permitted refuelling of the U.S. Air Force transport aircraft engaged in Gulf War at Indian Airports; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the extent to which it was in consonance with India's declared policy not to take sides with any of the warring factions;

(c) whether it had sharp critical reaction from Iraq and other countries, if so, in what terms and what is Government's response thereto; and